



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

NOVEMBER 2, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLUMBIA MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

COLUMBIA, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Columbia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for distributing crack cocaine.

Charles Randolph Ricketts, 47, of Columbia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

Ricketts pleaded guilty to distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine. By pleading guilty, **Ricketts** admitted that he distributed crack cocaine on Sept. 26, 2002, in Boone County, Mo. He also admitted to distributing crack cocaine on Sept. 12, 2002, and Oct. 4, 2002.

Ricketts was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 5, 2003, in Columbia.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. This case was investigated by the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group, the Columbia, Mo., Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow